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As the saying goes, “When in Rome, do as the Romans do”™, so when in South Korea it makes sense to eat Korean food. You can get yourself a burger or a steak of course, as the restaurants in Seoul cater for all tastes, but it really is worth eating Korean to truly experience the city and the country’s culture. You can even maximise your food budget by picking a cheap Seoul hotel to stay in, the quality of accommodation here is really very good in the main and you can get a nice place to stay for a good value price. This leaves you with even more money to spend on great meals at one of the below recommended restaurants.

1. Jun Won Garden “this place specialises in serving up Korean barbecue food and is set in a luxurious outdoor garden environment. Diners are able to relax among plants and flowers and enjoy Korean specialities and signature dishes like Kalbi and Bulgogi while having a pleasant chat in a pleasing atmosphere. The restaurant is quite charming and pretty good value for money into the bargain.

2. Mana “renowned for the quality of its food and the friendliness and efficiency of its service, Mana is a great example of a traditional Korean restaurant situated at the heart of the city of Seoul and easy to get to from your cheap Seoul accommodation. Mana has built up a reputation over time for serving some of the finest examples of Korean dishes in the city, with its Bulgogi “a platter of barbecued meats served with traditional sauce and vegetables” a particular highlight. This is an excellent place to enjoy authentic Korean dining, whether your first time eating Korean food or if you are already a fan.

3. Oh Mek Theh “less authentic in terms of environment and layout than many Korean restaurants in the capital, Oh Mok Theh enjoys a reputation for being new and funky, while still serving up outstanding quality Korean food. The restaurant can be found on the top floor of the SSamzie Space shopping mall and its glass walls offer the diner spectacular views out over the city skyline to the mountains beyond “a pretty spectacular setting in which to enjoy your meal. Most popular dishes on offer here include traditional clay pot baked stews like Bi Bim Bap.

4. Samwon Garden “another of Seoul’s fine outdoor dining experiences, Samwon Garden is an open and airy dining venue set in lush gardens “just the place to kick back and relax with a great dinner on the back of a hard day’s tourism! Food here is renowned for being made from the finest fresh ingredients on offer in Seoul’s markets and the restaurant offers all the classic Korean dishes, from Naengmyun (cold stir-fried noodles) up to the famous Kalbi, slow-roasted barbecued ribs.

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